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INFORMATIONS

PUBLIEES PAR LE SECRETARIAT GENERAL DE LA FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE DOCUMENTATION

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INFORMATIONS OFFICIELLES

025.45

PROPOSALS FOR EXTENSION OF THE UNIVERSAL DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION

Proposals published since January 1st, 1951 :

PE 471 (March 1st, 1951) Provisional decision July 1st, 1951.
Miscellaneous small proposals.

PE 472 (March 29th, 1951) Provisional decision July 29th, 1951.
A proposal for revision of 621.791 Welding, by the Netherlands Welding Society on behalf of the «Institut International de Soudure» at Paris.

PE 473 (March 1st, 1951) Provisional decision July 1st, 1951.
Supplementary proposals to PE 460 on the reclassification of paint industry, and some other proposals.

PE 474 (March 1st, 1951) Provisional decision July 1st, 1951.
French proposals to class 2 Theology and Religion, supplementary to PE 455.

PE 475 (April 4th, 1951) Provisional decision August 4th, 1951.
French proposals for extension of 06, 355 and some other parts.

PE 476 (April 4th, 1951) Provisional decision August 4th, 1951.
Some small proposals and correction of PE's 403 and 467.

PE 477 (April 20th, 1951) Provisional decision August 20th, 1951.
British proposals for 655.

PE 478 (April 20th, 1951) Provisional decision August 20th, 1951.
Proposal for extension of the classification of visual-aid material, UDC (084).

PE 479 (April 20th, 1951) Provisional decision August 20th, 1951.
British proposals for revision of UDC 624.01, 628 (Public health engineering) and 693/694 (Masonry and wood construction).

PE 480 (April 20th, 1951) Provisional decision August 20th, 1951.
German proposal for revision of UDC 614.84 Fire-fighting.

PE 481 (April 20th, 1951) Provisional decision August 20th, 1951.
British proposals for extension of the classification of catalogue technics, UDC 025.3.

PE 482 (April 20th, 1951) Provisional decision August 20th, 1951.
Swiss proposal for reclassification of the chocolate-industry. This PE replace PP 9.

PE 483 (June 1st, 1951) Provisional decision October 1st, 1951.
Small proposals and corrections.

PE 484 (June 1st, 1951) Provisional decision October 1st, 1951.
British proposal for extension of the classification of the physical designation of place, UDC (1/2).

INFORMATIONS GENERALES

002:069

LA DOCUMENTATION ET LES MUSEES

Le comité exécutif du Conseil International des Musées a décidé de constituer un «Comité international de l' I.C.O.M. pour la documentation».

La proposition émane du vice-président de la F.I.D., Mr l'Administrateur général de la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, Julien Cain.

01:681.177.2

USE OF PUNCHED CARDS IN ESTABLISHING BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SELECTION AND LISTING.

Two papers in this field, both from the side of the USA, have been presented to the third World Petroleum Congress, The Hague, May 1951.

1) «The use of machine-sorted punched cards in documentation» by Betty Brown Porter and George S. Crandall (Socony Vacuum Laboratories) ;
2) «Problems of Classification and Documentation in the United States Patent Office in the Field of Petroleum and Allied Subjects» by M. F. Bailey, B. E. Lanham, and J. Leibowitz (USP Office).

The principle of both papers is the use of a multi-dimensional coding system for registering the various data contained in one single document in order to make possible the approach of such a document from various angles by mechanical selection with the aid of Hollerith or IBM machines or the like. The data arranged by the machines in any desired order can be transmitted by the machines into printed form, so that bibliographical lists will be obtained arranged according to the points of view desired.

In the Patent Office various types of products, their properties, manufacture and use may be classed and reclassed together with the references to the patents concerned. In SV also other data of management character are taken into account.

The text of a document is fully analysed and the elementary data resulting from the analysis are coded.

Since each idea present is coded as a single entity and not as a part of an artificial combination made necessary by unidimensional system, the more presence of two or more ideas in a given reference make it possible to search for those ideas individually or in combination. The more complex the combination, the smaller the number of cards concerning the combination resulting by the mechanical selection, and the simpler the final search.

SV uses the devices *A* for *current technical information service.* As to that they issue two weekly publications ; the List of Selected US Patents (LSUSA) (covering weekly some 125 selected patents) and the Index to Current Technical Articles (ICTA) (covering some 275 periodicals) ; and *B* for *requests* for *searches.*

The USP makes use of mechanical selection for preliminary examination of patent application and of the printing devices for issuing and reissuing the keys to classification and lists of patents appertaining to special classes.

SV makes use of the ordinary punched cards divided into vertical zones each of which being assigned to one homogeneous set of features which can be used independently as a base for search.

In some cases vertical zones are not independent but interconnected, so that one zone acts adjectively to a preceding one. In this case such adjective zones serve for what the authors call «indirect coding».

The USP devices show an exceptional character : Each code is represented on the punched card by a linear pattern of holes punched across any horizontal line of card. It does not matter which particular horizontal line of the card is selected to represent any particular code. The punched pattern and the information to which it appertains is recognized as such by the machine without regard to its vertical position on the card. As many cards can be used as needed to represent all pertinent disclosures of the particular document without concern as to the number of disclosures or the order in which they appear.

It is obvious that the equipments described in both papers give an enormous increase of rapidity of selection and accuracy in arranging and rearranging data contained in the registered documents. It is also obvious that the preparation of the code to be used in the mechanical devices requires much care and intellectual concentration. But once this preparative work is done, the efficiency of the practical use of the documentary material is enormously increased.

The question may be put in how far the preparatory work is justified by the time gained in reducing the search work.

Also the economical question is interesting in how far the mechanical power means a financial profit as compared to the manual and intellectual work usually involved in this kind of work.

002:061.3(492)

NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION DAY IN THE NETHERLANDS

On April 26, 1951, the «Documentation Day» was held in Utrecht. The theme was «A well-organized documentation pays itself». The following lectures were held :

Documentation for the purchasing department, by Mr J. Reitsma of the Royal Dutch ;

Documentation in the sales department, by Mr P. Ph. Hoeve of the Philips Factories.

In the afternoon two lectures were held by Dr H. J. van Opstall and Mr P. van Waasbergen on documentary technics in the United States, the reproduction technics and the mechanical devices for sorting data.

It was advocated that a well-organized documentation department is of great help for the business-firms. The documentation should be as simple as possible but it should include all necessary data on the market, the products and the prospective buyers.

CHARLES SUSTRAC (1874 - 1951)

Charles Sustrac est mort le 11 mai dernier. Son nom venait d'être évoqué cinq jours auparavant dans une séance de la Commission Technique de l'ISO chargée des règles bibliographiques, comme étant celui du promoteur d'un code catalographique international auxiliaire.

Ce bibliothécaire, qui passa toute sa carrière administrative à la Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève de Paris, fut avant tout un documentaliste fervent.

Archiviste de formation, sorti en 1899 de l'Ecole des Chartes, avec une thèse d'histoire religieuse (Les Célestins de Paris. Essai sur leur histoire et leurs institutions. 1300-1789), Charles Sustrac trouva à la Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève un bibliothécaire éminent, Charles Mortet, auquel il devait consacrer une notice nécrologique dans la Revue des Bibliothèques de janvier-mai 1928, et avec qui il participa à la rédaction des règles bibliographiques de l'Association des Bibliothécaires Français publiées en 1912 et en 1929.

Charles Sustrac devait s'attaquer aux mêmes problèmes dans les milieux internationaux. Les conférences de l'Institut International de Documentation, de 1931 et de 1935 furent pour lui l'occasion de faire connaître ses idées sur la question. Il devait aussi faire partie de la Commission française des règles pour le classement alphabétique, avec Boutilillier du Retail (1939).

Les responsabilités qui furent confiées au Conservateur adjoint de la Bibliothèque Sainte Geneviève, celles de la Salle de Travail et des Catalogues publics rejoignaient l'intérêt permanent de Sustrac pour les questions de catalogage et de la classification. La classification décimale fut en effet l'autre pôle de son activité. Aussi lui consacra-t-il une bonne partie de ses loisirs. Il chercha, avec maladresse peut-être et à coup sûr dans un esprit d'indépendance un peu trop marquée à l'égard de la Commission internationale de la F.I.D. à adapter aux besoins français une classification décimale abrégée. Les dernières années de sa vie ne devaient pas être sans amertune, et les infirmités s'accusant, Sustrac se retira de toute activité documentaliste, au grand regret de ses collègues et amis.

Ce technicien enthousiaste était en perpétuelle évolution. C'est à peine s'il osait inscrire une vedette-matière autrement qu'au crayon. Résolument anti-conservateur, il n'admettait pas que des livres fussent refusés à la consultation pour la seule raison de leur valeur intrinsèque. L'idée d'une «réserve» pour les livres rares ou précieux lui était absolument étrangère. Pionnier de la lecture publique et de la bibliothèque moderne à l'instar d'Eugène Morel, il fit partie du Bureau Bibliographique de France depuis sa fondation par Sebert jusqu'à la mort de Mestre, le dernier président de cette association. Resté fidèle à la Société de l'Ecole des Chartes, dont il suivait toutes les réunions, catholique révolutionnaire, progressiste en bibliothéconomie, hérétique de la C.D.U., Charles Sustrac fut constamment fidèle à son horreur innée de la compromission. Ses amis lui conserveront un souvenir ému et attristé.

28 mai 1951

S. BRIET.

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